



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia Announces 2023 Carole Weinstein Author Series Lineup

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RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – The Library of Virginia is excited to announce the [2023 Carole Weinstein Author Series](#) schedule. This year's lineup includes the historical fiction follow-up to the award-winning novel *Yellow Wife*, a brilliantly reported true crime story, a look at Appalachian foodways, a heart-wrenching reexamination of the Reconstruction-era South, a memoir from a death row chaplain and an artist's exploration of the nature of Virginia.

The **Carole Weinstein Author Series** supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia. Authors answer questions from the audience and sign copies of their books. Free and open to the public, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres and is made possible through support from the Carole Weinstein Endowment for Virginia Authors. This year marks the Library's 200th anniversary, a special occasion for spotlighting the Library's role in bringing attention to talented Virginia writers and fascinating Virginia subjects.

Learn more and register for events at www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein. For more information, contact Elizabeth Kaczynski at elizabeth.klacynski@lva.virginia.gov or 804.692.3536.

The series schedule follows:

KATHRYN MILES

Trailed: One Woman's Quest to Solve the Shenandoah Murders

Thursday, May 11, 2023 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA

Kathryn Miles, an award-winning journalist and science writer, is the author of five books. Her essays and articles have appeared in publications such as *Audubon*, *Best American Essays*, *Best American Sports Writing*, the *Boston Globe*, the *New York Times*, *Outside*, *Politico* and *Time*. A contributing editor at *Down East* magazine, Miles also serves as a scholar-in-residence for the Maine Humanities Council and as a faculty member in several MFA programs.

About *Trailed*

When Kathryn Miles begins looking into the case of unsolved murders in Shenandoah National Park, she discovers conflicting evidence, mismatched timelines and details that just don't add up. With unprecedented access to crucial crime-scene forensics and key witnesses, she begins to uncover the truth. Miles becomes convinced that an innocent man has been under suspicion for decades, while the true culprit is a known serial killer. Intimate, page-turning and brilliantly reported, *Trailed* is destined to become a true crime classic.

SADEQA JOHNSON

The House of Eve

Thursday, June 8, 2023 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA

Sadeqa Johnson is an international best-selling and award-winning author of five novels. Her novel *Yellow Wife*, which won the Library's 2022 People's Choice Award for Fiction, follows an enslaved woman forced to barter love and freedom while living in the most infamous slave jail in Virginia. Her most recent work, *The House of Eve*, continues her tradition of confronting timeless questions that have no easy answers. Johnson's novels are frequent book club selections, and she is widely requested to speak at schools, conferences, historical organizations and more, discussing the historical significance of her stories, writing, research and personal journey. She is a Kimbilo Fellow, a former board member of the James River Writers, and a proud member of the Tall Poppy Writers. She also teaches fiction writing for the MFA program at Drexel University.

About *The House of Eve*

In this moving work of historical fiction set in 1950s Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., the stories of two women collide in unexpected ways as they both make decisions that shape the trajectories of their lives. Johnson's latest book explores what it means to be a woman and a mother, and how much one is willing to sacrifice to achieve her greatest goal. *The House of Eve* was an instant *New York Times* best seller and was selected by Reese's Book Club as the February 2023 pick.

ERICA ABRAMS LOCKLEAR

Appalachia on the Table: Representing Mountain Food and People

Thursday, July 27, 2023 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA

Erica Abrams Locklear is a professor of English and the Thomas Howerton Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the University of North Carolina Asheville. She is the author of *Appalachia on the Table: Representing Mountain Food and People* and *Negotiating a Perilous Empowerment: Appalachian Women's Literacies*. She is a seventh-generation Western North Carolinian who loves good food, books and conversation.

About *Appalachia on the Table*

When her mother passed along a cookbook assembled by her grandmother, Locklear thought she knew what to expect. But rather than a homemade cookbook full of apple stack cake, pickled watermelon or other "traditional" mountain recipes, she discovered recipes for devil's food cake with coconut icing, grape catsup and fig pickles. Some recipes even relied on food products like Bisquick, Swans Down flour and Calumet baking powder. Where, Locklear wondered, did her Appalachian food script come from? And what implicit judgments had she made about her grandmother based on the foods she *imagined* she would have been interested in

cooking? Her book explores how long-held preconceptions about Appalachian foodways color our perception of the region and its people.

KIDADA WILLIAMS

I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War Against Reconstruction

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA

Kidada Williams is a writer and historian who studies what happened to African American survivors of racist violence. Her first book, *They Left Great Marks on Me*, explored Black people's personal testimonies of violence and their role in mobilizing civil rights advocates to fight lynching and other forms of white supremacist oppression. She is one of the co-editors of *Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism, and Racial Violence*, a collection of readings that provided historical context for understanding the 2015 massacre of nine African Americans at Charleston's Emanuel A.M.E. Church. Her writings have appeared in *DAME magazine*, *Slate*, *The American Historian* and the *New York Times*. She has appeared on NPR's "Morning Edition" and "On Point," "BackStory with the American History Guys" and on WDET's "Detroit Today." She lives and work in Detroit.

About *I Saw Death Coming*

The story of Reconstruction is often told from the perspective of the politicians, generals and journalists whose accounts claim an outsized place in collective memory. But this pivotal era looked very different to African Americans in the South transitioning from bondage to freedom after 1865. Williams offers a breakthrough account of this much-debated period, transporting readers into the daily existence of formerly enslaved people building hope-filled new lives. Drawing on overlooked sources and bold new readings of the archives, Williams offers a revelatory and, in some cases, minute-by-minute record of nighttime raids and Ku Klux Klan strikes. And she deploys cutting-edge scholarship on trauma to consider how the effects of these attacks would linger for generations to come. *I Saw Death Coming* presents a heart-wrenching reexamination of the struggle for survival in the Reconstruction-era South.

RUSS FORD WITH TODD C. PEPPERS

Crossing the River Styx: The Memoir of a Death Row Chaplain

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA

Russ Ford is a retired chaplain. **Todd C. Peppers** is the Henry H. and Trudye H. Fowler Professor of Public Affairs at Roanoke College and a visiting professor of law at Washington and Lee University. In addition to his current work, Peppers has co-authored two other books on the death penalty: *Anatomy of an Execution: The Life and Death of Douglas Christopher Thomas* and *A Courageous Fool: Marie Deans and Her Struggle Against the Death Penalty*.

About *Crossing the River Styx*

As the head chaplain on Virginia's death row for 18 years, the Rev. Russ Ford raged against the inequities of the death penalty—now outlawed in Virginia—while ministering to the men condemned to die in the 1980s

and 1990s. Ford stood watch with 28 men, sitting with them in the squalid death house during the final days and hours of their lives. He spent years forging close bonds with the condemned and developing a nuanced understanding of their crimes, their early struggles and their challenges behind bars. His unusual ministry makes this memoir a unique and compelling read, a moving and unflinching portrait of Virginia's death row inmates.

SUZANNE STRYK

The Middle of Somewhere: An Artist Explores the Nature of Virginia

Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023 | 6:00–7:30 p.m. | Library of Virginia Lecture Hall, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA

Suzanne Stryk is an artist who finds equal fascination in the natural world and the visual arts. She's shown her conceptual nature paintings and assemblages in solo exhibitions throughout the United States, including the National Academy of Sciences, the Taubman Museum of Art and the Illinois Institute of Art. A variety of national publications have featured her portfolios and related writings, such as *Orion*, *Ecotone*, *Terrain.org* and the *Kenyon Review*. She is the recipient of a George Sugarman Foundation grant and a Virginia Commission for the Arts fellowship for her project "Notes on the State of Virginia," which evolved into her first book, *The Middle of Somewhere: An Artist Explores the Nature of Virginia*." Stryk maintains a studio in Abingdon, Virginia.

About *The Middle of Somewhere*

There's no such thing as the middle of nowhere. Everywhere is the middle of somewhere for some living being. That was Stryk's mantra as she journeyed through her home state on an art project titled "Notes on the State of Virginia." She describes those journeys in her book, *The Middle of Somewhere*, a collection of nonfiction stories, sketches and mixed-media assemblages. Stryk offers an interpretation of Virginia's natural and cultural ecology from an artist's point of view, gathered in diverse places—from kayaking a pristine swamp to wandering through galleries of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and from strolling along the dusty streets of an old coal town to creating assemblages in her art studio. In a challenge that is universal, Stryk invites us to travel slowly, pause for deep wonder, and reflect on what makes each place a "somewhere."

Find related images here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ctc80kekuwgag92/AABLjWRNrMsvi7qMZDOx8kpCa?dl=0>

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our online offerings attract nearly 3.8 million website visits per year, and our resources, exhibitions and events bring in nearly 100,000 visitors each year. The Library's collections, containing more than 130 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens. The Library is located in downtown Richmond near Capitol Square at 800 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Learn more at www.lva.virginia.gov.